RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 25th April, 1995/5th Vaisakha, 1917 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

आर्थिक विकास

*301. **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार द्वारा लागू आर्थिक उदारीकरण की नीति के कारण पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में आर्थिक विकास हुआ है; यदि हां तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान आर्थिक विकास की प्रतिशतता क्या रही है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): Yes, Sir. The Indian economy has responded well to wide ranging economic liberalisation measures undertaken since July, 1991. This is reflected in an acceleration in the rate of growth in gross domestic product at factor cost (at 1980-81 prices) from 0.9 per cent in 1991-92 to 4.3 per cent in each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 and an estimated 5.3 per cent during 1994-95.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : सभापति महोदय माननीय मंत्री महोदया द्वारा मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में जवाब दिया गया है कि वर्ष 1991 की स्थिति की तुलना में 31 दिसम्बर, 1994 की स्थिति में देश में आर्थिक उदारीकरण की नीति के तहत आर्थिक विकास की दर में वृद्धि हुई है। महोदय, जहां तक मेरी समझ में यह बात आयी है निश्चित तौर पर सरकार द्वारा कार्यभार संभालने के पश्चात देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिये यह आर्थिक उदारीकरण की नीति लागू की गई है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि वर्ष 1991 की स्थिति में देश की कुल आबादी में गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जिन्दगी जीने वालों का प्रतिशत क्या था और इस आर्थिक उदारीकरण की नीति के तहत 31 दिसम्बर, 1994 की स्थिति में उन गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जिन्दगी जीने वालों के प्रतिशत में कितनी कमी आई है ? यदि कमी आई है तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that there was an unprecedented economic crisis in June, 1991 when we took over the Government For example, there was a depletion of foreign exchange reserves: and we had only $-1 billion. There was a drop in the export growth and loss of external credit worthiness and the GDP growth was only 0.9 per cent.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: He wants to know about the people living below poverty line before 1991.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I will come to that point. Our strategy is to give top priority to strengthening the anti-poverty programmes. The allocation for rural development has been increased from Rs. 3,100 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 3,700 crores in 1994-95. We have taken several measures to strengthen the anti-poverty programmes. For example, the outlay for rural development has been increased by 18 per cent. The Central Plan allocation for education was up by 92 per cent and for health it was up by 122 per cent. Also, we have revamped the public distribution sysetm in 1775 blocks in remote and backward areas. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Sir, this is not the reply to the question. The question is very simple. (Interruptions).

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: We are taking all efforts. We have taken up new programmes to benefit the poor, the rural poor. We have launched several programmes. In percentage, actually I do not have the figures. I will collect the information and convey it to the hon. Member.

श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल : पहले कितने थे और उदारीकरण के बाद कितने थे यह बताइए न मंत्री जी ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, please. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOM PAL: Sir, this is a very regularly monitored affair. I am very sorry that the Minister says that he does not have the figure. Below the poverty line... (*Interruptions*)... Anybody in the Government should be able to say that. His answer is untenable. It is not accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the officers have the poverty line details with them. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Minister, is it 30 or 27 or something like that?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Sir, we have to collect the information from various Ministries. We are spending on the social sector, rural development and employment programmes. (*Interruptions*).

श्री जनार्दन यादव : मंत्री जी तैयार होकर क्यों नहीं आते हैं ? तैयार होकर पढ़ - लिख कर रिपोर्ट लेकर आना चाहिए था न।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: There are very strong reports in the newspapers that the number of people below the poverty line is gradually increasing. And there are reports even from various economists in this country that this number is increasing. You must give a pointed reply whether the number has increased or decreased. What was the number before the reforms started and what is the number today? It is a very simple and straight question. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is going to answer. Please sit down. (*Interruptions*). Will all of you please sit down? The Minister is going to answer.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Sir, as I have already replied, to collect the information we have to contact various Ministries. We are spending on the social sector, rural development and even employment programmes. Unless we collect information from the other Ministries, it is very difficult to tell the number. I will collect the information and convey it to the hon. Member. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like the question to be transferred to another date so that the Minister can come prepared?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, Sir.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That you should do at the end.

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one basic question. This sort of statistics will always be ready with the Finance Ministry. What are they required to do, in fact? There should be some sort of a ready reply. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The statistical reply is already available in the Planning Commission. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: It is not a question of only statistical data. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Kindly hear us. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: It is not a question of statistical data. From our experience, we know that the Ministry of Finance is manufacturing people below the poverty line on a large scale. Now they are saying that the Rural Development Ministry will look after that. Its job is to create people below the poverty line. (*Interruptions*). Allow me to complete. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, please sit down. I want to say something. This is actually about the

growth rate, but I should still say that the poverty rate cannot be detached from the growth rate. He is not directly on poverty rate. But still it cannot be said that the growth rate has nothing to do with the poverty rate. I feel if the hon. Minister has no objection, we can postpone this question till the 9th. We will ask the Rural Development Minister... (*Interruptions*) we will postpone it to the 9th.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, before it is postponed, I would request you to give one directive that the Government should set up a committee to examine this question why, on the one hand, economic growth will be there and on the other, the people below the poverty line also will grow. This aspect of the matter must be examined. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: The Minister should come prepared on the 9th. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, there should be a categorical directive that the Minister informs the House about the impact of the growth rate. We would like to discuss the impact of the growth rate. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister would answer what is within the scope of the question. It is not a debate. We will take it up on the 9th. Now, I move to the next question, Q. No. 302.

Revision in Advertisement and Telecasting Fees

*302. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 291 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 1995 and state the details of the revised rates indicating the reasons and rationale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

As part of its endeavour to maximise its commercial earnings, Doordarshan revised its rate structure w.e.f. 1st April, 1995. The major revisions are as under:—

DD—1

I. *Saturday Hindi Feature Film :*

(i)	Sponsorship fee (per half hour)	Rs. 6 lakhs
(ii)	Spot Buy (per 10 Seconds)	Rs. 1.10 lakhs

II. *Super-A category:*

(i)	Sponsorship fee (per half hour)	Rs. 2.40 lakhs
(ii)	Free Commercial Time	90 Seconds
(iii)	Spot Buy (per 10 seconds)	Rs. 70,000

†[The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma]